

C. REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-17, and 20-23 are currently present in the Application, and claims 1, 8, and 14 are independent claims. No claims have been amended, cancelled, or added in this Response.

Drawings

Applicant notes that the Examiner did not indicate whether the formal drawings, filed with Applicant's application, are accepted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate whether the formal drawings are accepted in the next office communication.

Claim Rejections - Double Patenting

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 13-15, and 20 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6-8, 10, 16, 17, 19 and 24-26 of copending Application No. 09/918,594. Claims 3, 4, 10, 16, 17, and 21-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer with this Response, and therefore respectfully submits that the claim rejections based on double patenting are now moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the double-patenting rejections and pass the claims to allowance.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicant that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition

for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests an early allowance of such claims.

Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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